

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 130950Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9153

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, CH, PINT

SUBJECT: SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS: MIYAZAWA ADVOCATES SOUNDING
OUT CHINESE ON PFT

REF: TOKYO 6882

SUMMARY. RESPONDING TO RECENT CHINESE STATEMENTS
THAT DOMESTIC SITUATION STABLE, FOREIGN POLICY
UNCHANGED, AND DESIRE STRONG FOR SPEEDY CONCLUSION
TO PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT) FONMIN MIYAZAWA TOLD DIET
COMMITTEE THAT GOJ READY TO DISCUSS ISSUE AT CHINESE
CONVENIENCE. FONOFF HAS NO REAL HOPES THAT PEKING
CAN BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO BREAK CURRENT IMPASSE, BUT
FELT IT MUST SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE AGAINST BACKGROUND
OF RECENT CHINESE EFFORTS TO PLACE ONUS ON JAPAN FOR
LACK OF PROGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. RESPONDING TO QUESTION PUT TO HIM IN LOWER HOUSE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY SOCIALIST MEMBER DOMORI,
FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA MAY 12 MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:
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"IN THE PAST I MADE THE REMARK THAT RECENT INTERNAL

PROBLEMS IN CHINA DID NOT PROVIDE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. MY REMARKS WERE GENERAL, TO THE EFFECT THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE NORMALLY SET ASIDE IN ANY COUNTRY UNDERGOING POLITICAL CHANGE. RECENTLY, CHINESE LEADERS INCLUDING VICE PREMIER KU MU AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA (WHO MET WITH AMBASSADOR OGAWA MAY 8) REMARKED THAT CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY WOULD NOT CHANGE. I WELCOMED THESE REMARKS AS A SIGN THAT THE SITUATION IN CHINA HAD STABILIZED."

2. WHEN DOMORI ASKED MIYAZAWA WHAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE, HE REPLIED: "IN THE PAST I MADE PLAIN TO THE CHINESE MY INTERPRETATION OF THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE. THE CLAUSE IS NOT TO BE DIRECTED AT THIRD COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF COUNTRIES. IT DOES NOT COMMIT EITHER PARTY TO JOINT ACTION. OPPOSITION TO HEGEMONY SHOULD NOT JUST BE LIMITED TO THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION BUT TO THE REST OF THE WORLD AS WELL. THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE MUST BE IN LINE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. THESE FOUR POINTS HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO THE CHINESE SIDE. THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER BOTH SIDES CAN ADJUST THEIR WAYS OF THINKING ALONG THESE LINES. HAVING MADE THESE ADJUSTMENTS, THE NEXT QUESTION IS HOW TO EXPRESS THESE VIEWS IN THE TEXT OF THE TREATY. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW THE CHINESE WOULD REACT TO THE JAPANESE INTERPRETATION AND WHAT COMMENTS OR COUNTERPROPOSALS THEY MIGHT HAVE. WITH THIS INTEREST IN MIND, PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO SEEK CONTACT WITH THE CHINESE AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE SITUATION HAS STABILIZED."

3. WHEN DOMORI ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT THE TIMING OF THIS APPROACH, MIYAZAWA REPLIED: "THE EARLIER THE BETTER. THE CHINESE LEADERS ARE, HOWEVER, BUSY MEN SO I CANNOT RELY SOLELY ON JAPAN'S CONVENIENCE. IF THE CHINESE ARE PREPARED, THEN THE EARLIER THE BETTER."

4. DOMORI ASKED MIYAZAWA IF HE WAS PREPARED TO
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VISIT PEKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOUNDING THE CHINESE OUT. MIYAZAWA REPLIED THAT HE HAD MADE NO PREPARATIONS ALONG THESE LINES BUT RATHER PREFERRED THAT CONTACTS BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. "JUMPING IN WITHOUT PRIOR PREPARATION WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL. HOWEVER, SHOULD SUCH CONTACTS RAISE THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL DECISION, A DECISION WOULD BE MADE BASED ON AN ESTIMATE OF THE PROSPECTS."

5. ASKED WHAT THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH CONTACTS MIGHT BE, MIYAZAWA REPLIED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND THE JAPANESE ON THIS SUBJECT REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT QUESTION WHICH WOULD REQUIRE DECISIONS AT THE HIGHEST POLICY LEVEL. HE DID NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO PRE-JUDGE THE ISSUE.

6. DURING A PRESS BACKGROUNDER FOLLOWING THE DIET INTERPELLATIONS, MIYAZAWA COMMENTED TO REPORTERS THAT DOMORI'S QUESTIONS RECEIVED SUCH LENGTHY AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION BECAUSE HE IS A LONG-TERM MEMBER OF THE DIET AND A SERIOUS STUDENT OF SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS. MIYAZAWA EXPLAINED THAT HE FELT HIS ANSWER TO DOMORI WAS NOT A FORMAL PUBLIC STATEMENT BUT RATHER CONVERSATIONAL RESPONSE.

7. FOREIGN OFFICE CHINA DIVISION DIRECTOR FUJITA, WHO PROVIDED US WITH DETAILS ABOVE, COMMENTED THAT MIYAZAWA'S REPLY TO DOMORI SOMEWHAT VAGUER THAN GUIDANCE PREPARED BY FUJITA'S OFFICE. FUJITA HAD SUGGESTED THAT MIYAZAWA ANNOUNCE DESIRE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AND HOLD SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON PFT. FOREIGN MINISTER CLEARLY WANTED TO TREAT SUBJECT IN LESS CONCRETE AND SENSATIONAL WAY, PERHAPS WITH EYE ON RESUMING CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINA AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THREE MONTHS. FUJITA CONTINUED THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FELT NO REAL URGENCY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS BUT CONSIDERING THE CURRENT FLOOD OF FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE PRC, AND RECENT CHINESE STATEMENTS THAT BALL IN JAPANESE COURT, FOREIGN OFFICE FELT IT BEST TO SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE.

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6. FUJITA SAID HE PLANNED TO MAKE A SECRET EXPLORATORY DEMARCHE TO THE CHINESE SOON. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, EXPECT VERY POSITIVE RESULTS. ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO HAS APPEARED TO SOULD SOMEWHAT MORE FLEXIBLE LATELY, HIS COMMENTS ON THE PFT ISSUE ARE BASICALLY UNCHANGED. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO SIGN OF WILLINGNESS TO GO BEYOND A WORD-BY-WORD REPETITION IN TREATY OF HEGEMONY CLAUSE AS IT APPEARS IN THE CHOU-TANAKA COMMUNIQUE.
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